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A new species of *Pseudotargionia* Lindinger (Homoptera: Diaspididae) from South Africa

by

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The description is given for the female of *Pseudotargionia subcorticis* spec. nov., a diaspidid which was found to infest twigs of *Combretum imberbe* in Northern Transvaal, South Africa.

The genus *Pseudotargionia* Lindinger includes eleven species which are distributed in Africa, Asia and Australia (Borchsenius, 1966; Munting, 1969). In Africa this genus is represented by three species namely *P. glandulosa* (Newstead), *P. damara* Munting and *P. kalaharica* Munting.

Whereas *Pseudotargionia* species were recorded, from other continents, on host plants belonging to various families, all the African representatives were so far recorded from *Acacia* spp. only. Moreover the type species is regarded as specific to indigenous African *Acacia* spp. (Balachowsky, 1958).

The new species described here was collected from twigs of Leadwood, *Combretum imberbe* Wawara (Combretaceae), in the course of a recent collecting trip in Northern Transvaal. It represents the first African species of *Pseudotargionia* known to infest a host plant other than *Acacia*.

Pseudotargionia subcorticis spec. nov., fig. 1

Scale of adult female white in colour, rounded oval, length about 1,5 mm, width about 1,0 mm. Exuviae brownish yellow, subcentral.

Scale of male not observed.

General shape of adult female as typical to the genus. At full maturity the entire body heavily sclerotized, except two pairs of less sclerotized areolae, one on the head and the second on the prothorax. Length of mounted specimens 0,7 to 1,3 mm. Antenna with one single hair. Anterior spiracle with 8–14 parastigmatic pores, posterior spiracles without associated pores. Median lobes prominent, about as wide as long; apically rounded, some of the specimens with a small preapical notch on the outer margin. Second lobes well developed, about half a length of the median, with a distinct notch on outer margins. Third lobes almost obsolete, but always present, at least as a small projection. No plates occur between the median lobes; two small plates, shorter than the second lobe, between median and second lobes; two small plates, shorter than the third lobe, between second and third lobes. Two pairs of long microducts, extending about half way to the vulva, one pair discharges between median and second lobes and the second pair between second and third lobes; a pair of shorter ducts, extending a little anteriorly to the anal opening, discharging between the median lobes. Paraphyses

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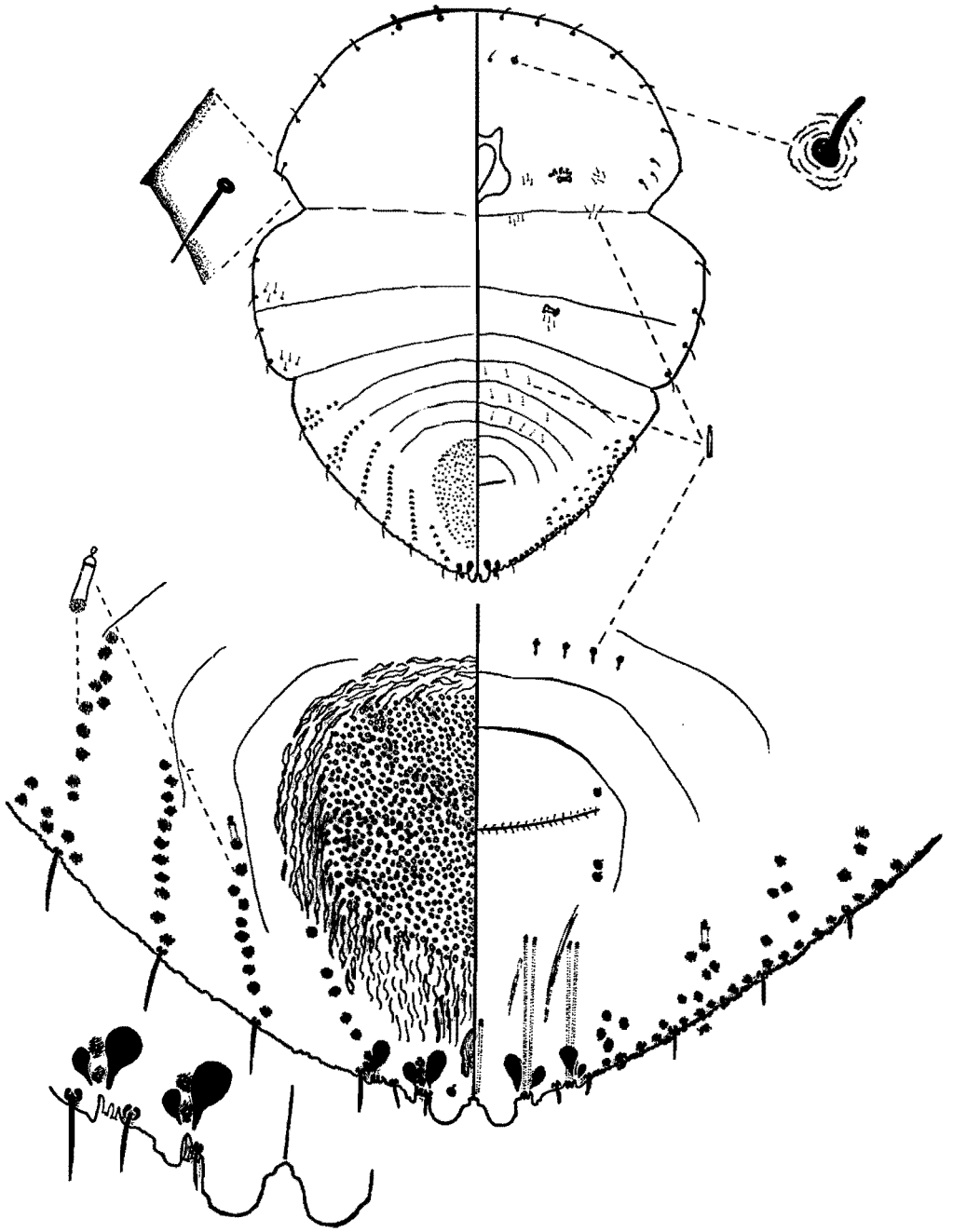

Fig. 1. *Pseudotargionia subcorticis* spec. nov.

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absent between the median lobes; a pair between median and second lobes and one pair between second and third lobes. Marginal macroducts, dorsal macroducts and ventral submarginal ones of the same size. Marginal macroducts arranged in a continuous single-pore row along the margin of segments II to VI. Dorsal macroducts in regular rows on segments II to VII, as follows: first row (between median and second lobes) with 2–3 ducts, second row 5–7 ducts, rows three to seven comprise 8–13, 10–16, 9–17, 11–26, 7–17 ducts respectively. The most anterior duct of the second row is distinctly separated anteriorly from the row by a distance which is longer than the intervals between the rest of the ducts. Ventral submarginal macroducts, on segments II to V, 22 to 25 in number, arranged in clusters and not forming a continuous band. Dorsosubmarginal microducts on posterolateral angles of metathorax (3–6 ducts) and mesothorax (1–4 ducts). Ventral microducts distributed as follows; 4–6 ducts associated with each posterior spiracle; two groups of ducts posteriorly to the mouth parts—5 to 7 ducts in each; 3 to 4 ducts between mouth parts and each anterior spiracle; along the segmental line between meso and metathorax, posterolaterally to each anterior spiracle—4 to 6 ducts. Few microducts on dorsomedian and dorsosubmedian areas of I to V abdominal segments. Perivular pores absent. Anal opening triangular in shape, removed from base of median lobes by about half a length of a median lobe.

MATERIAL EXAMINED. SOUTH AFRICA. Transvaal, Mara railway station, 16.IV.1972, on *Combretum imberbe* Wawara (Combretaceae), Y. Ben-Dov, H.C. 4568. Described from young female holotype (H.C. 4568/18) not yet sclerotized, and 18 paratypes. The holotype and 12 paratypes will be deposited in the National Collection of Insects, Plant Protection Research Institute, Pretoria; two paratypes for each will be placed with the British Museum (Natural History), the United States National Museum, Washington, and the author's collection.

NOTES. The females were found to infest only twigs. The white scales are almost concealed under the thin cork layer of the twig, except for the yellowish exuviae that can be noticed on superficial observation. The population of *P. subcorticis* was found to infest the host plant together with populations of the diaspidids *Melanaspis corticosus* (Brain) and *Morganella conspicua* (Brain).

The heavily sclerotized, fully grown females of this species have a common characteristic with those of the other African *Pseudotargionia* spp., i.e. four less sclerotized areolae on the head and prothorax. However, it differs from *P. glandulosa* by the absence of the conspicuous, clavate paraphyses between median lobes. From *P. damara* it can be distinguished by the absence of clavate paraphyses between median lobes and of dorsosubmarginal microducts on the prothorax. Of the African species it is close to *P. kalaharica* from which it differs mainly by: (1) absence of plates between the median lobes; (2) the smaller size of the plates between median and second and between second and third lobes; (3) absence of paraphyses between V and VI segments.

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